

## HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

## INTRODUCTION

## FINDINGS OF FACT

3. The Department seeks verification from households with children turning eighteen years of age to determine

whether the child will graduate before his nineteenth birthday. The Department sent petitioner this verification request. The petitioner supplied the above information.

4. The Department sent petitioner a notice dated March 14, 2008 notifying him that his RUFA grant would close April 1, 2008 because his grandson would not graduate before he turned nineteen years old. Petitioner filed a timely appeal.

ORDER

The Department's decision to close petitioner's RUFA grant is affirmed.

REASONS

A primary purpose of the Reach Up Financial Assistance Program (RUFA) is to assist low income families. Welfare Assistance Manual (W.A.M.) § 2200. To qualify, the household must have a child who meets the age criterion found at W.A.M. § 2301, which states:

Eligibility criteria relative to age are established by law (33 VSA 1101 as amended) for children under the ANFC program, as follows:

An individual qualifies under the age criterion as a child if he or she is under 18. In addition, an 18 year old child is eligible if he or she is a full-time student in a secondary school . . . and is expected to complete high school or the equivalent program before reaching his or her nineteenth birthday.

The only exception to the age criterion is a disabled child who is unable to finish his or her school program before his or her nineteenth birthday. Howard v. Department of Social Welfare, 163 Vt. 109 (1994). Petitioner's grandson is not disabled and not eligible for this exception.

Based on the information petitioner supplied the Department, petitioner's grandson does not meet the age criterion for eligibility. As a result, the Department's decision to close petitioner's RUFA grant is affirmed. 3 V.S.A. § 3091(d), Fair Hearing Rule No. 17.

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